

Reef Assessment Protocols

Date: Please fill in the date when the restoration site condition is assessed.

Reef Diagrams: Periodic assessment of the restoration sites will enable us to track changes occurring on the reefs between times when DNR staff make observations. There are two data sheets that will be used for reef assessment. The first is the SCORE observation datasheet, which takes you through a visual assessment of the reef and the surrounding environment/conditions. This will guide you in filling out the second sheet, the reef diagram. Go through the SCORE observation datasheet and answer all questions that apply to the site. Next fill out your reef diagram. On the reef diagram, the reefs are identified from left to right with your back to water with the upper row being row "a". The legend on the top of the page indicates what shell type each shading represents. This allows you to make notes on the difference between recruitment on the shell types. Please indicate on the diagram any areas where mud is accumulating on or around the reef. Please note areas where there is abundant oyster growth. Give a brief description of the oysters on the reef. If possible, please look at the shell in the trays and note any spat. Any other observations that you wish to record should be recorded on this sheet. Shoreline erosion pole measurements are also recorded on this sheet, the protocol follows.

Erosion Pole Measurements: This only applies to those areas where there are PVC poles behind the restoration reefs to monitor shoreline erosion. An erosion measuring pole will be provided. The pole consists of a concave end with a tape measure glued to one side. Again, the individual poles are numbered from left to right with your back to the water. Each number corresponds to a pair of PVC poles planted along the shoreline. One was placed at the shoreline's edge and the second was placed 36" landward. Take the measuring pole provided and put the concave end against the rear pole as near to the base as possible. While standing over the measuring pole look straight down the measuring tape and note the distance from the rear pole to the shoreline. If there is no longer a definitive, vertical shoreline edge, note that on the sheet and we will relocate the poles. Do this for each pair of erosion poles. The relative location of the pairs of erosion poles is indicated on the reef assessment page and spaces are provided at the bottom to record the measurements. If there is less than 20" between the front and back poles, reposition the front pole at the edge of the shoreline and place the back pole 36" landward. Make sure to note on your sheet the repositioning.